

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5830

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 540

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, PT, PO, ID, AS

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR - AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT ON EAST TIMOR

REF: (A) USUN 539: (B) CANBERRA 958

1. ON FEBRUARY 11, AUSTRALIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE HARRY SENT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN FOLLOWING STATEMENT RELATING TO MISSION OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WINSPEARE WITH REGARD TO SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR:

QUOTE

CANBERRA, FEBRUARY 8: THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR ANDREW PEACOCK, SAID TODAY THAT HE DEEPLY REGRETTED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR WINSPEARE-GUICCIARDI, HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROCEED TO FRETELIN AREAS OF EAST TIMOR FOR TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT PARTY.

IT HAD BEEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S EARNEST HOPE THAT MR  
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WINSPEARE-GUICCIARDI SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THESE AREAS AND THUS

ROUND OFF HIS MISSION, HE SAID.

BUT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HAD FOUND IT NECESSARY TO CALL OF HIS EFFORTS FOLLOWING ADVICE FROM FRETILIN THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY A SECURE VENUE IN EAST TIMOR FOR A MEETING. THERE HAD IN FACT ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERABLE DOUBTS ABOUT THE SECURITY OF MOST OF THE AIRFIELDS WHICH HAD FROM TIME TO TIME BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE POINTS OF ENTRY INTO THE FRETILIN ZONES. THIS LACK OF SECURITY WAS FINALLY CONFIRMED BY FRETILIN ITSELF IN A MESSAGE RECEIVED BY TELECOM DARWIN ON 6 FEBRUARY.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THAT IN DEFAULT OF THE NECESSARY GUARANTEES OF SAFETY TO HIS MISSION, THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TERMINATE IT.

"THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS DONE EVERYTHING THAT COULD BE REASONABLY EXPECTED OF HIM TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH FRETILIN LEADERS", MR PEACOCK SAID.

THE MINISTER ALSO NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DONE WHAT IT COULD TO ASSIST THE U.N. MISSION. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TECHNICIANS HAD ASSISTED MR WINSPEARE-GUICCIARDI AND THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN VERIFYING TRANSMISSION FROM THE PORTUGUESE CORVETTES. THE DIFFICULTIES OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH FRETILIN FORCES LATER LED THE GOVERNMENT TO OFFER THE USE OF TELECOM FACILITIES.

IT WAS TO BE HOPED, MR PEACOCK SAID, THAT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S INABILITY TO TRAVEL TO FRETILIN AREAS WOULD NOT JEOPARDISE THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION.

HE RECALLED IN THIS REGARD THAT RESOLUTION 384 OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD CHARGED MR WINSPEARE-GUICCIARDI WITH THE TASK OF VISITING TIMOR TO MAKE AN ON-THE-SPOT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ALL THE PARTIES OF THE TERRITORY.

THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HAD VISITED LISBON AND JAKARTA FOR TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS THERE, AND DILI AND OTHER CENTRES IN EAST TIMOR FOR TALKS WITH THE PRO-INDONESIAN PARTIES.

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THE FAILURE TO REACH FRETILIN AREAS WAS CLEARLY MOST DISAPPOINTING.

HOWEVER, MR WINSPEARE-GUICCIARDI'S VISIT TO DARWIN WOULD HAVE BEEN OF SOME OVERALL BENEFIT TO HIS MISSION. WHILE THERE, HE HAD HAD TALKS WITH MR RAMOS HORTA, FRETILIN SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FRETILIN.

THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY ENABLED THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO REACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH FRETILIN'S VIEWS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TIMOR SITUATION AS WELL AS THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE TERRITORY. IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THESE VIEWS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT NOW TO BE PREPARED BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS' SECRETARY-GENERAL.

MR PEACOCK SAID THAT IT WOULD THEN BE FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN AND TO DECIDE, IN THE LIGHT OF MR WINSPEARE-GUICCIARDI'S REPORT, WHAT FURTHER STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH RECOGNISING THAT THE TIMING OF THE COUNCIL'S MEETING IS A MATTER FOR ITS MEMBERS, HOPES THAT THE MATTER WILL BE TREATED AS AN URGENT ONE AND THAT THE COUNCIL WILL RESUME CONSIDERATION AT AN EARLY DATE.

"AS ON THE LAST OCCASION WHEN THE COUNCIL MET ON THE QUESTION OF TIMOR, I SHALL INSTRUCT THE AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK TO SEEK PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE", HE SAID.

THE MINISTER NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE MR WINSPEARE-GUICCIARDI HAD AUTHORISED HIM TO SAY THAT THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES HAD RESPONDED CO-OPERATIVELY AND PROMPTLY TO ALL SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE VISITING UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN REGARD TO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN FRETILIN REPRESENTATIVES IN DARWIN AND ON TIMOR.

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